



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Community Living

Availability of Program Application Instructions for the State Councils on Developmental Disabilities to Expand COVID-19 Vaccine Access for People with Disabilities

Title: Expanding Disabilities Network's (DD Councils) Access to COVID 19 Vaccines

Announcement Type: Initial

Statutory Authority: Subtitle B of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act)

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 93.630

DATES: The deadline date for the submission of the Expanding Disabilities Network's (DD Councils) Access to COVID 19 Vaccines is 11:59PM [INSERT DATE 14 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Funding Opportunity Description

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) announced a new funding opportunity to increase vaccine access for people with disabilities. With funding and partnership support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), ACL is providing grants to disability networks to provide critical services to help communities combat COVID-19. A leading priority of this joint effort is to ensure vaccines are equally accessible to the disability population.

Approximately 61 million adults living with in the US have a disability, representing approximately 26 percent of the adult population. People with disabilities may have an increased risk for contracting COVID-19 based on where they live or the services they receive. Some people with disabilities live in group settings which places them at higher risk for acquiring COVID-19 in comparison to people without disabilities. People with disabilities may also require close contact with direct service providers, including personal care attendants or other care providers,

who help with activities of daily living. Moreover, many people with disabilities have underlying health conditions (e.g. diabetes, heart disease, and obesity) that increases the risk of severe illness due to COVID-19. In addition, research has also found that people with Down Syndrome are significantly more likely to be hospitalized from COVID-19 than the general population.

There are increasing reports of barriers and unequal access in communities to vaccinate people with disabilities. For example, some people with disabilities may experience difficulties scheduling appointments, communicating, obtaining accessible transportation or require direct support services to attend vaccination appointments. Others living in the community may be isolated or unable to leave their home and may require in-home vaccination.

This funding opportunity is designed to breakdown those barriers to expand vaccine access in communities. Examples of activities consistent with the purpose of this funding are the following:

- Education about the importance of receiving a vaccine,
- Identifying people unable to independently travel to a vaccination site,
- Helping with scheduling a vaccine appointment,
- Arranging or providing accessible transportation,
- Providing companion/personal support,
- Reminding people of the second vaccination appointment if needed, and/or
- Providing technical assistance to local health departments or other entities on vaccine accessibility.

Awards authorized under Subtitle B of the DD Act, State DD Councils, shall be provided funding under this opportunity. Award recipients will be required to submit annual progress reports on the activities conducted, challenges, successes, and lessons learned and provide a written summary.

In addition, to show impact of the grant awards, the grantee will include the number of people served or impacted by the services provided against each of the activities chosen to be implemented. To be eligible to receive this grant, the grantee must submit a Letter of Assurance to ACL containing all of the assurances required, (see below, “Section III. Eligibility Criteria and

Other Requirements” and “Section IV. Submission Information”). DD Councils who do not complete assurance requirements below, or otherwise indicate no desire to receive funds will be excluded from receiving funds.

ACL may establish ad hoc dates based on the need of the COVID-19 response, e.g., to meet unanticipated issues related to COVID-19 and/or to allow impacted eligible applicants that missed the cut-off date to submit an application for consideration. ACL intends to issue initial notices of award as applications are received prior to the application due date to address urgent COVID-19 response needs. Second notices of award are planned after the actual number of applicants is finalized.

II. Award Information

1. Funding Instrument Type

These awards will be made in the form of formula grants to State DD Councils.

2. Anticipated Total Funding per Budget Period

Under this program announcement, ACL intends to make grant awards to each State and territory, and the District of Columbia. Awards made under this announcement have an estimated start date of April 14, 2021 and an estimated end date of September 30, 2022, for a 17- month budget and performance period.

The total available funding for this opportunity is \$4,000,000. Funding will be distributed based on the state/territory population. There are no cost-sharing nor match requirements. Below are the projected award amounts:

State/Territory	Projected Amount	State/Territory	Projected Amount
Alabama	\$55,219	Massachusetts	\$77,623
Alaska	\$26,695	Michigan	\$112,472
Arizona	\$81,973	Minnesota	\$63,513
Arkansas	\$33,986	Mississippi	\$33,517
District of Columbia	\$26,695	Missouri	\$69,119
Florida	\$241,881	Montana	\$26,695
Georgia	\$119,573	Nebraska	\$26,695
Hawaii	\$26,695	Ohio	\$131,642
Idaho	\$26,695	Oklahoma	\$44,563
Illinois	\$142,710	Oregon	\$47,500
Indiana	\$75,818	Pennsylvania	\$144,176
Iowa	\$35,532	Rhode Island	\$26,695
Kansas	\$32,810	South Carolina	\$57,985
Kentucky	\$50,315	South Dakota	\$26,695
Nevada	\$34,689	Tennessee	\$76,910
New Hampshire	\$26,695	Texas	\$326,551
New Jersey	\$100,031	Utah	\$36,105
New Mexico	\$26,695	Vermont	\$26,695
New York	\$219,085	Virginia	\$96,127
North Carolina	\$118,116	Washington	\$85,759
North Dakota	\$26,695	West Virginia	\$26,695
California	\$444,985	Wisconsin	\$65,572
Colorado	\$64,855	Wyoming	\$26,695
Connecticut	\$40,152	American Samoa	\$13,902
Delaware	\$26,695	Guam	\$13,902
Louisiana	\$52,355	Northern Marianas	\$13,902
Maine	\$26,695	Puerto Rico	\$35,967
Maryland	\$68,086	Virgin Islands	\$13,902

III. Eligibility Criteria and Other Requirements

1. Eligible Entities

The eligible entity for these awards is the agency designated as a State DD Council in each state or territory.

2. Other Requirements

A. Letter of Assurance

A Letter of Assurance is required to be submitted by the eligible entity in order to receive an award. The Letter of Assurance must include the following:

1. Assurance that the award recipient is the agency or entity designated as the State DD Council in the state or territory.
2. Assurance that funds will supplement and not supplant existing State DD Council funding.
3. Assurance that funds will be spent in ways consistent with the purpose of the funding in carrying out one or more of the following activities:
 - Education about the importance of receiving a vaccine,
 - Identifying people unable to independently travel to a site,
 - Helping with scheduling a vaccine appointment,
 - Arranging or providing accessible transportation,
 - Providing companion/personal support,
 - Reminding people of their second vaccination appointment if needed, and/or,
 - Providing technical assistance to local health departments or other entities on vaccine accessibility.
1. Assurance that the award recipient will do outreach to Aging and Disability Resource Centers, Centers for Independent Living, State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities to maximize state coordination wherever possible.
4. Assurance to provide semi-annual federal financial reports and annual program reports that describes activities conducted, challenges, successes, and lessons learned. The written summary will also include number of people served or impacted by the services provided.

B. DUNS Number

All grant applicants must obtain and keep current a D–U–N–S number from Dun and Bradstreet. It is a nine-digit identification number, which provides unique identifiers of single business entities. The D–U–N–S number can be obtained from:

<https://iupdate.dnb.com/iUpdate/viewiUpdateHome.htm>.

C. Intergovernmental Review

Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, is not applicable to these grant applications.

IV. Submission Information

1. Letter of Assurance

To receive funding, eligible entities must provide a Letter of Assurance containing all the information outlined in Section III above.

Letters of Assurance should be addressed to:

Alison Barkoff

Acting Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging

Administration for Community Living

330 C Street SW

Washington, DC 20201.

Letters of Assurance should be submitted electronically via email to your ACL program officer.

The following table identifies the designated program officer against each of the 10 ACL regions:

	ACL Regions	Email/Phone
Sara Newell-Perez Program Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Region I CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT• Region II NY, NJ, PR, VI• Region III DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV• Region IV AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN• Region VI AR, LA, OK, NM, TX	sara.newell-perez@acl.hhs.gov 202-795-7374
Shawn Callaway Program Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Region V IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI• Region VII IA, KS, MO, NE• Region VIII CO, MT, UT, WY, ND, SD• Region IX CA, NV, AZ, HI, GU, CNMI, AS	shawn.callaway@acl.hhs.gov 202-795-7319

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region X AK, ID, OR, WA 	
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2. Submission Dates and Times

To receive consideration, Letters of Assurance must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on [INSERT DATE 14 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. Letters of Assurance should be submitted electronically via email and have an electronic time stamp indicating the date/time submitted.

VII. Agency Contacts

1. Programmatic Issues

Direct programmatic inquiries to your program officer:

ACL Regions I, II, III, IV, and VI

Sara Newell-Perez

Email: Sara.Newell-Perez@acl.hhs.gov

Phone: 202-795-7374

ACL Regions V, VII, VIII, IX, and X

Shawn Callaway

Email: Shawn.Callaway@acl.hhs.gov

Phone: 202-795-7319

2. Submission Issues:

Direct inquiries regarding submission of the Letters of Assurance to the appropriate ACL Program Officer found in the table in “Section IV. Submission Information.”

Dated: April 1, 2021.

Alison Barkoff,

Acting Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging.

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